

Italian Spy - Rinaldi

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3 ITALIANS HELD AS SOVIET SPIES

Noted Parachutist, Wife, Chauffeur Are Accused

Turin, Italy, March 21 (UPI)—A noted Italian parachutist, his wife and his chauffeur were accused today of spying on American air bases in Europe for the Soviet Union.

A prosecutor in this North Italian city said Giorgio Rinaldi, 39, a sports jumping ace and instructor, was taken into custody March 15 along with his wife, Angela Maria, 52, and chauffeur, Armando Girard, 40.

The prosecutor said the three would be placed under formal arrest Wednesday on charges of espionage.

Microfilm Found

Authorities said microfilm of secret documents and military sites were found in the suspects' home and in an artisan's shop operated here by the Rinaldis. Investigators said these included shots of the air base at Aviano in Northern Italy and of a United States base in Spain.

Italian counter espionage agents had kept the Rinaldis under surveillance in 1966, authorities said, when the couple allegedly met with a lieutenant colonel from the Soviet Embassy in Rome.

In 1962, the accusation said, the Rinaldis were asked to supply information to the Soviet espionage service. They allegedly did so and were paid.

The couple allegedly was asked to concentrate on United States bases in Spain, but to also seek information in other European countries.

Had Easy Access

Authorities said Rinaldi's reputation as a parachutist allowed him easy access to military bases. He was allegedly trained to take still photographs and movies with the most modern techniques.

The assistant prosecutor, Domenico Jannelli, said the arrests were part of a wider effort to break up what he described as a spy network working throughout Europe and particularly strong in the Mediterranean area. He did not elaborate.

In Rome, however, the Italian news agency ANSA said it had learned that Rinaldi was considered a recruiter and link between agents he enlisted and foreign spies.

It said that agents were located in other countries and that contacts involving Rinaldi were carried out near Montreux, Switzerland, and Rome.

Wife Was Decoder

Rinaldi's wife, it said received and decoded radio messages in Turin when Rinaldi was absent. The chauffeur allegedly was recruited by Rinaldi to gather and deposit messages in Spain and Switzerland.

Girard was picked up March 15 in a car at the Italian-French frontier. He allegedly was in possession of films and other materials. Rinaldi was taken into custody the same day as he entered his home. Mrs. Rinaldi was picked up in the couple's shop.